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The Law and the Poor. By EDWARD ABBOTT PARRY. (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company. Pp. xxi, 316.)

Quite irrespective of legal text books, a large library could be got together of books written by English lawyers and judges. Most of them would be autobiographies telling of experiences at the bar, on the bench, or in the House of Commons, for successful English barristers regard a seat in the House of Commons as natural a step as becoming a K. C. and taking to a silk gown. *The Law and the Poor* is in neither of these two classes. It is neither a legal treatise, nor an autobiography, although it is based on Judge Parry's twenty years' experiences of county courts, plus some experience as honorary justice of the peace. It is one of the most readable and outspoken books ever written by an English judge. About the only book with which it can be compared is William Hutton's history of the old court of requests at Birmingham, with the philosophical analyses of the cases upon which Hutton and his fellow commissioners of the court of requests adjudicated. William Hutton wrote of the administration of justice at Birmingham in the last half of the eighteenth century; and his book—quite remarkable in its way—is now chiefly valuable for the insight it gives into the condition of the wage-earning classes in a large industrial center in the years when the factory system was superseding the home workshop. One hundred and ten years have elapsed since Hutton wrote. The history of law reform in this period is a long and interesting chapter, and on the whole an exhilarating one. But Judge Parry shows that much more reform in legal procedure is necessary before there can be equality before the law for rich and poor in England. The inequalities and hardships which Judge Parry reveals are those of the police court, the county court, and the divorce court. He lays special stress on the hardships resulting from imprisonment of the poor for debt, and on the prohibitive cost of carrying a divorce case to London; for in England only one court is empowered to grant divorce decrees. As a contribution to the social history of England in the twentieth century, Judge Parry's *The Law and the Poor*, is quite as valuable as Hutton's unique contribution to the history of the first thirty years of the factory era. It is essentially a book to be read as distinct from a treatise or a book of reference; and its style, its humor, and its democratic sympathies, are so impelling that it cannot fail to become one of the most widely read books which treat of English law and its administration no matter from what standpoint. It is a book that its author intended should be

widely read. It was written in the first place for an English Sunday newspaper; and in book form it is dedicated "to the man in the street, in the pious hope that he will take up his job and do it."

Party Government in the United States of America. By WILLIAM MILLIGAN SLOANE. (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1914. Pp. xvii, 451.)

This volume consists in the main of the lectures delivered in Germany during the year 1912-1913, while the author was Roosevelt professor at the Universities of Berlin and Munich. They are now presented in revised form in English. One might well expect from a study bearing such a title a systematic analysis of the forces governing party action, the ends to be achieved, and the means for accomplishing those ends, i.e., a theory of party government. Professor Sloane, however, has not attempted this except incidentally to his main purpose which he sets forth as follows: "The work has been done primarily for students and teachers whose field is the development of American institutions; but likewise for serious readers desirous of understanding how our government has come to assume its present form." He indulges the hope that the book, "having met with success abroad, . . . will prove of even higher value at home."

The treatment then is frankly historical; the bulk of the volume, Chapters iv to xxxiii, inclusive, is devoted to an account of the inception of the American party system and the various phases of its development, an account which emphasizes the fortunes of parties, rather than the changes in institutions, and follows generally the well trodden path of such narratives. Where he deviates from this course the author surprises us with such statements as that Jay "technically" would have become president had the deadlock in the election of 1800 continued until the following March 4th (p. 78); or that New York is a "state naturally Democratic" (p. 274); or that after the taking of the Philippines and Porto Rico "for fourteen years questions of foreign policy completely overshadowed domestic affairs" (p. 264). On this last point, however, he himself is not really sure, for when discussing the presidential and other campaigns after 1898 he finds the chief issues, except in 1900, to be domestic affairs (see pp. 272, 275-277, 287-289, 294, 298). The narrative of political development has the merit of being up to date; it includes comments on the Wilson administration down to the spring of 1914.